

REMARKS

Applicants' Attorney, Sidney Persley, would like to thank the Examiner for taking time out of her schedule to meet with him on October 30, 2003. During such meeting it was agreed that Applicants' argument overcame the §102 rejection. However, the Examiner indicated that the Mihoya et al. reference may later be applied against Applicants under a 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection. Therefore, in anticipation of such rejection, Applicants agreed to provide the Office with a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 explaining how Applicants' invention differs from the Mihoya et al. reference and would not be rendered obvious thereby.

Invention

The invention is directed to a printing ink containing a pigment and an aqueous emulsion of a silicone modified macromolecular resin binder. The silicone modified macromolecular resin binder is prepared by reacting an alkoxysilane with an aqueous emulsion polymer containing hydroxy functional groups.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 have been rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mihoya et al. (US Patent No. 5,719,206). Mihoya et al. disclose an aqueous coating composition which is a resin and an aqueous dispersion. The aqueous dispersion is prepared by reacting a silane coupling agent with an inorganic particulate (e.g., pigment) whose surface is thereby modified by the silane coupling agent.

Applicants' printing ink contains an aqueous emulsion of a silicone modified macromolecular resin binder prepared by the reaction of an **alkoxysilane** and an aqueous emulsion polymer containing hydroxy functional

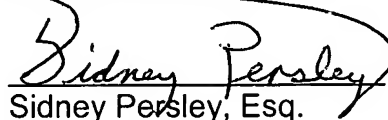
groups wherein the alkoxysilane reacts with the hydroxy functional groups of the polymer.

Mihoya et al. does not disclose reacting an alkoxysilane with an aqueous emulsion polymer containing hydroxy functional groups. Instead, Mihoya et al. disclose reacting a silane coupling agent with the inorganic particulate. Thus, printing inks employing the aqueous dispersion disclosed in Mihoya et al. do not anticipate Applicants' printing ink composition as Mihoya et al. does not disclose all the features of Applicants' printing ink composition. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the Remarks submitted herein adequately and completely address the rejection raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants kindly solicit for allowance and issuance of the outstanding claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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I, Nancy Stedtler, hereby certify that this correspondence (and any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date below and in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date 11-20-03

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